

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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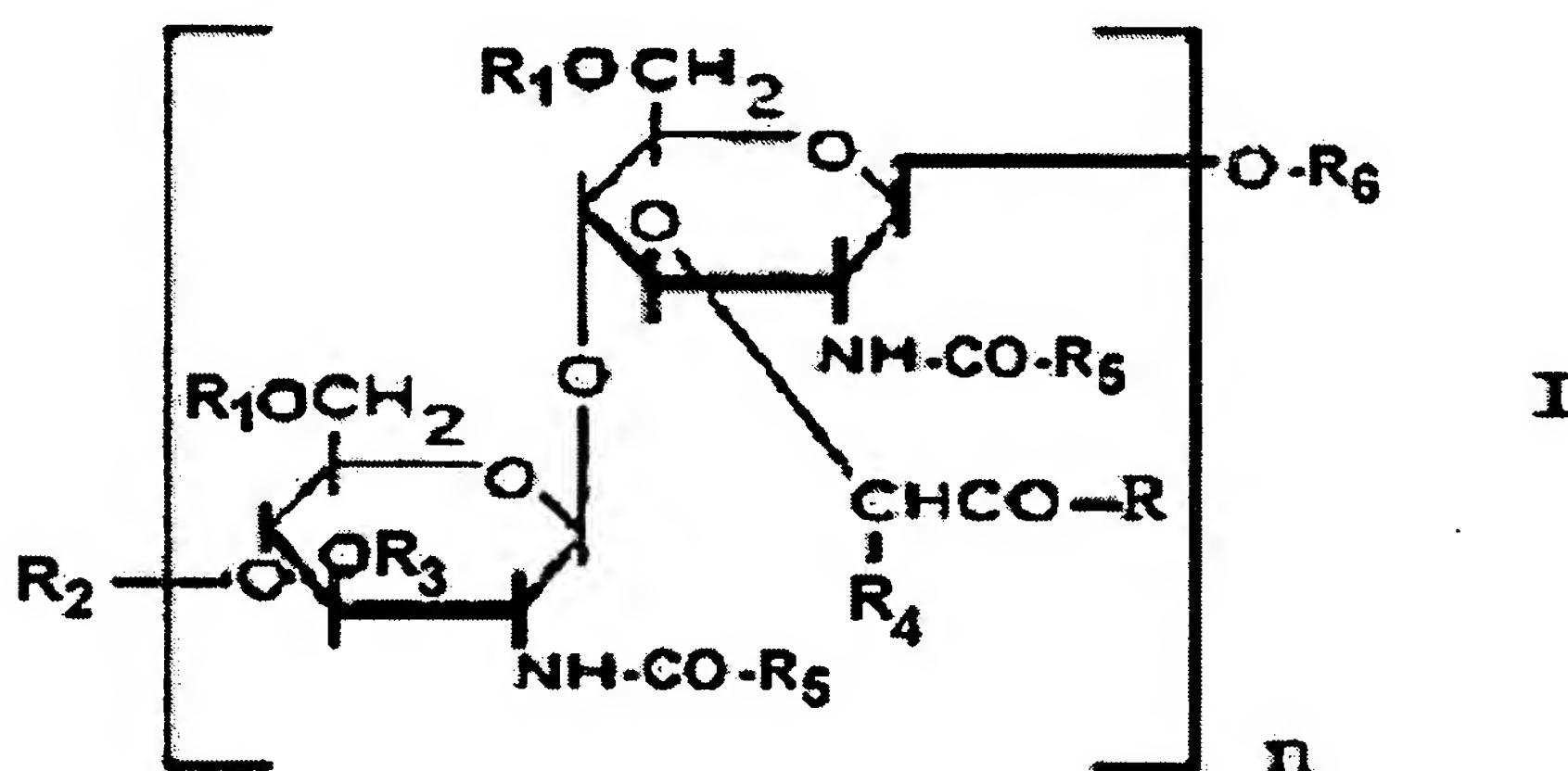
1 1. A method for treating a metabolic or autoimmune disorder in a human  
2 or veterinary patient, said method comprising the step of

3

4 (A) administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of  
5 a compound having the formula:

6

7



8

9 wherein:

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11 R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> each represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> acyl group;

12 R<sub>4</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

13 R<sub>5</sub> represents a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>21</sub> alkyl group or a C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub> aryl group;

14 R<sub>6</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; and

15 R represents the residue of an amino acid or a linear peptide of up to from 2  
16 to 6 amino acid residues. Furthermore, at least one of the residues may be  
17 optionally substituted with a lipophilic group through an ester or amide bond;  
18 and n is 1 and 2.

1 2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises  
2 administering GMDP.

1   3.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises  
2   administering GMDP-A.

1   4.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises  
2   administering GMDP and GMDP-A.

1   5.   A method according to Claim 4 wherein Step A comprises  
2   administering GMDP and GMDP-A in separate doses at separate times.

1   6.   A method according to any of Claims 1-5 wherein the compound is  
2   administered enterally.

1   7.   A method according to any of Claims 1-5 wherein the compound is  
2   administered parenterally.

1   8.   A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered  
2   intranasally.

1   9.   A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered  
2   sublingually.

1   10.   A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered  
2   by buccal administration.

1   11.   A method according to any of Claims 1-10 wherein the method further  
2   comprises the step of:

3

4         (B)   administering to the patient a natural or synthetic compound that  
5   comprises a flavone, flavonoid, isoflavone or a derivative, prodrug or  
6   congener thereof.

1    12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein Step A and Step B are carried  
2    out substantially simultaneously.

1    13. A method according to Claim 11 wherein Step A and Step B are carried  
2    out at different times.

1    14. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the compound of Step A and  
2    the compound of Step B are administered in a fixed dosage combination  
3    pharmaceutical preparation.

1    15. The use of a compound having the general formula set forth in Claim 1,  
2    in the manufacture of a preparation for administration to a human or  
3    veterinary patient for the treatment of an autoimmune or metabolic disorder.